



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
BOARD OF HEALTH

DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
Thursday, February 17, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Health was held virtually on Microsoft Teams and at the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health, 85 Civic Center Plaza – Suite 106, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 on the above date.

PRESENT: John Fallon, NP Lobsang T. Lungay, MD, President
Doug McHoul, Legislative Representative
David McNary, Secretary Marc Nelson

ABSENT: James Grigg

VISITORS: Amy Ghattas, DC DBCH Biostatistician
Anthony Ruggiero, MPA, DC DBCH Assistant Commissioner of Administration
Hisieni Sacasa Wisniewski, DC DBCH Biostatistician
Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, DC DBCH Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Lungay called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM – A quorum was called.

MINUTES – The minutes of the December 16, 2021, and December 22, 2021, meetings were reviewed. Mr. McNary made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, Mr. Fallon seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

SECRETARY'S UPDATE – Mr. McNary discussed the pilot program he was working on with three local churches. The program will be holding 6 sessions per year and they've named it Episcopal Seniors. They will be using some existing programs like Know Your Numbers to teach about the importance of monitoring your health. The program was awarded a small grant from the NY Episcopal Dioecies. They are holding the sessions via zoom and in-person.

Mr. McNary also stated that the article Mr. Fallon shared with the board members, *The Seven Habits of COVID-Resilient Nations*, written by Uri Friedman, The Atlantic, was intriguing and shows a whole new phase of public health. South Korea was able to improve government confidence because they responded quickly with testing, contact tracing and communication. They worked with public health leaders and focused on a depoliticized approach to COVID-19.

Mr. McNary would like to know what we can do on a local level to apply some of these same principals and what have we learned from a county perspective on reacting to the pandemic? Dr. Santiago stated that we have been meeting regularly throughout the pandemic with our local school superintendents, local college administrators, and other groups. Dr. Santiago interested in working with our DBCH Communications liaison to explore avenues to foster communication with these populations and encouraging bi-directional communication so that we receive feedback from communities as well.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Looking at lessons learned is important. There is a lot of data, but the data is not put together well. Dr. Santiago stated she has been working with NYSDOH about pulling data so that we can have it available to use. The data is kept on the NYSDOH level and not shared with counties. She has been working with NYSACHO (New York State Association of County Health Organizations) and other avenues to get access to the data on a county level. How many hospitalizations were saved by vaccination? Dr. Santiago stated that all the information to answer that question is in different areas and the state is only sharing parts. NYS participated in a recent study that was published in January with the state of California regarding re-infections vs boosters. NYS shared the data necessary to participate in this study which means they have the data, but they just aren't sharing it with us. Counting cases from hospitals can be another way to tabulate but its very ad-hoc and hospitals would say its difficult for them to pull the information as well.

Dr. Santiago stated many of her colleagues are not encouraging vaccination and she was working with the Dutchess County Medical Society to try and motivate physicians to encourage their patients to get vaccinated. It's concerning because only 34% of children ages 5 – 11 have at least one dose of vaccine. Families may not be getting vaccinated because they don't have trust in the government. We need to have credibility with the community.

Dr. Santiago reported that the department has the JC Penney facility through the summer and will be transitioning from emergency operations back to day-to-day operations. Vaccine PODs and testing locations will be winding down. She would like to use the space to hold a Health Fair. We can offer blood pressure screenings, community outreach, healthy cooking, gyms, etc. We are looking at May/June timeframe for this event. The department and perhaps the Board of Health as well, can focus on wellness versus disease and activities to support a healthier lifestyle and community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANTI-OBESITY – No report

HEALTH DISPARITIES – No report, needs committee chair

SANITARY CODE – No report

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Mr. McNary inquired as to the opinion of the legislature on vaccination? Mr. McHoul stated it is divided and there a couple of individuals refusing to wear masks. The

topic of vaccine hasn't come up in a legislative meeting, but Dr. Santiago is welcome to come talk at the Health and Human Services Committee. Mr. McHoul stated he would be fine with that but would suggest not taking questions but rather have questions emailed versus a live debate on the subject if Dr. Santiago came to present to the committee.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS –

Membership – Dr. Calabro has submitted his resignation effective January 8, 2022. That leaves the Board with 5 candidates for 3 open positions on the board of health. One of the candidates has a mental health background and may be more appropriate for the Mental Hygiene Board who also has openings. Dr. Santiago talked about the two candidates she is familiar with. Mr. McHoul stated that the candidates for both the Mental Hygiene Board and Board of Health are going to be interviewed on March 7, 2022.

Election of Officers – Mr. Nelson made a motion for Dr. Lungay to continue as President and Mr. McNary to Vice President and the position of secretary will stay open until we get new members on the board. Mr. Fallon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Data Reporting – Ms. Sacasa Wisniewski and Ms. Ghattas presented data sheets on COVID-19 and Suicide in Dutchess County. Mr. McNary inquired as to the change on the Dutchess County Dashboard removing positivity rate and adding cases per 100,000. Cases per 100,000 is a more accurate representation of the number of cases due to the addition of home positive tests which decreased the accuracy of positivity rate due to unknown number of negative home tests. Mr. McNary was looking for a way to compare to see if transmission has slowed to allow for more activities. As of February 12, we have a 92% decrease in 7-day average incidence of COVID-19 from the peak of January 8, 2022. As of February 12, 50% of the 12 years and older population have received a booster dose of COVID vaccine. Regarding suicide deaths in Dutchess County from 2012-2021, 72% took place in or on residential properties and 35% of suicides were completed using a firearm and which are more likely to be done by a male. Women are more likely to complete a suicide using overdose. From 2019 – 2021, 22% of suicides were in the 55 – 64 age range, closely followed by the 35-44 years old at 18%. The statistics on the data sheet do not include prison deaths. Ms. Ghattas was unsure if that meant just state prisons in the county were excluded or if the Dutchess County Jail was also excluded. Opioid suicide would be classified as poison, but most opioid deaths are classified as accidental deaths. It was suggested that it would be interesting to see geographically where the suicides took place to see if an intervention could take place. Ms. Sacasa Wisniewski and Ms. Ghattas said they would get back to the board.

College Students/Community Navigators - Dr. Santiago also discussed an idea she had that involved bringing in students from local colleges and creating tracks for them to become community navigators. They would be interacting with the community to determine what their needs are. The goal is to have a consistent program with new students entering each semester and developing a rapport with the community. We would need to visit all communities, both city and rural, as they both are experiencing needs and our new mobile medical vehicle could be

used. We may also enlist high school students who are involved in the Health Education Center that covers 11 counties. They have something called the scrub club which exposes students to all types of careers in public health, but they aren't in every school district in the county. Mr. McNary inquired if we could use the Marist National Survey capability to assist us in developing a county model survey. Dr. Lungay would like to focus on small areas/projects that we can complete, like the food desert in Eastern Dutchess. Dr. Santiago mentioned that she recently saw something called Farm Link that collects produce from farms that isn't store quality and delivers to food deserts.

Public Health Partnership Awards 2022 – The County Legislature is allowing visitors back into the chambers, meeting in person and are willing to let the Board of Health come and present the award at the Legislative meeting the first week in April which coincides with National Public Health Week. We will review nominations at the March Board of Health Meeting.

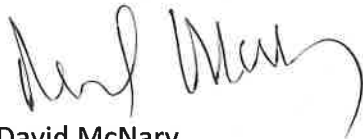
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mr. McNary made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Nelson seconded, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Thursday, March 17, 2022

2022 EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Lobsang T. Lungay – President
David McNary – Vice President
Vacant – Secretary

Minutes signed by:



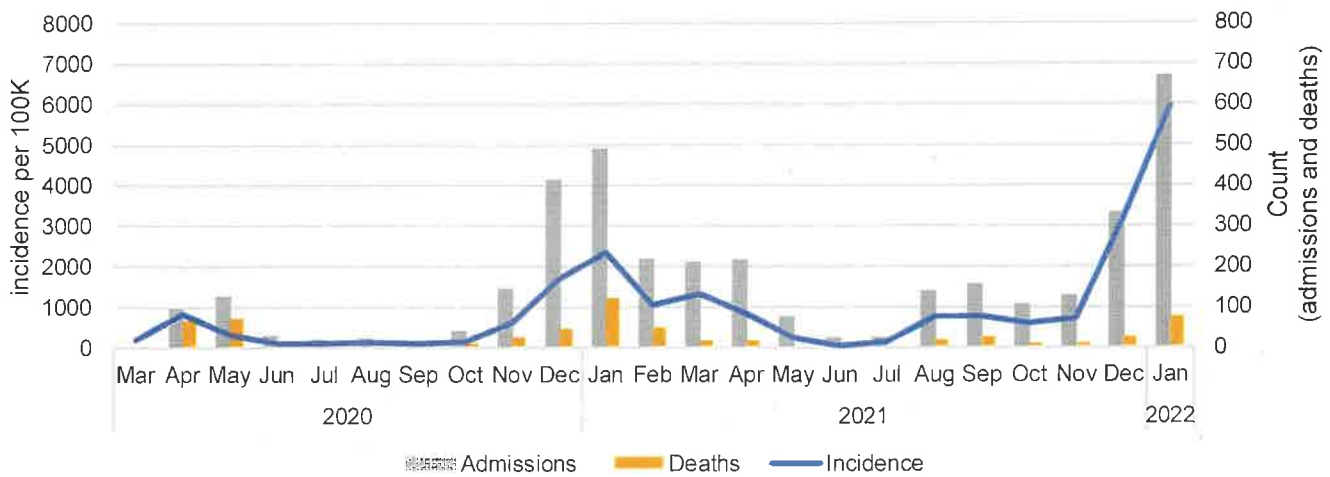
David McNary
Secretary of the Board of Health



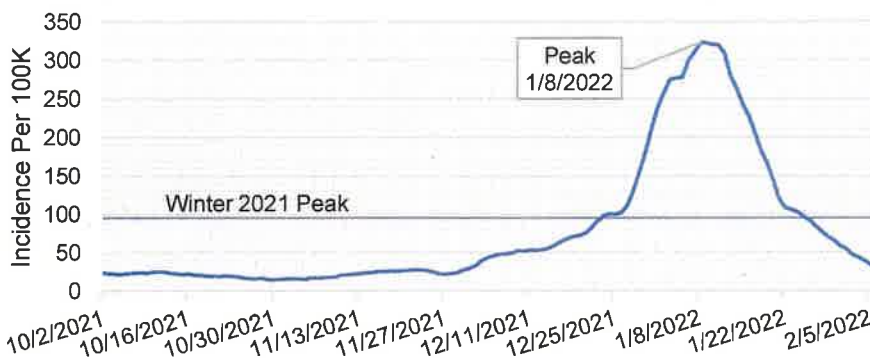
Wendy Cady
Recording Secretary

Covid-19 in Dutchess County

Covid-19 in Dutchess County by Month, March 2020 - January 2022



7 Day Average of Incidence of Covid-19 in Dutchess County



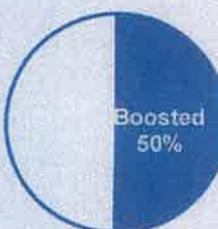
92%
Decrease
from peak
As of Feb 12

Vaccinations

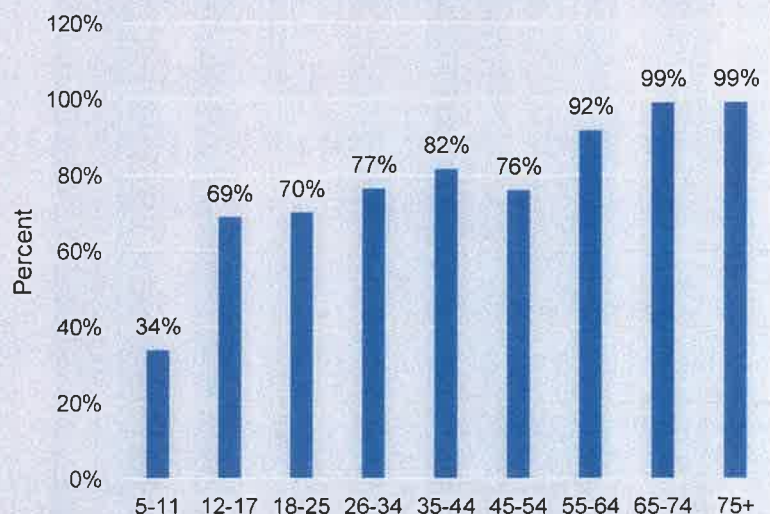
Percent Population 12 + with Complete Series, Dutchess County



Percent Population 12 + who are Boosted, Dutchess County as of Feb 12, 2022

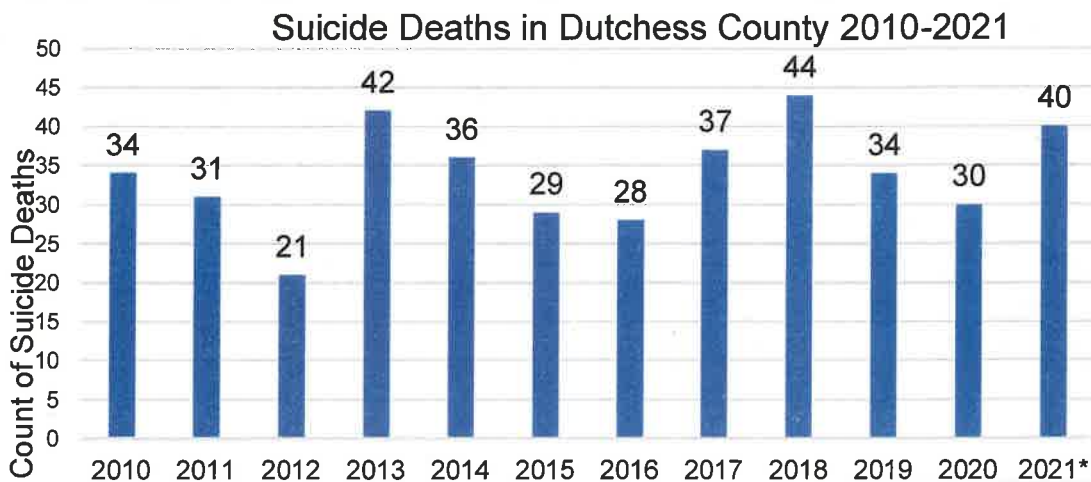


Percent Population with at Least One Dose By Age Group, Dutchess County



This report has been generated with the latest data but may be yet to be finalized. Data values are subject to change

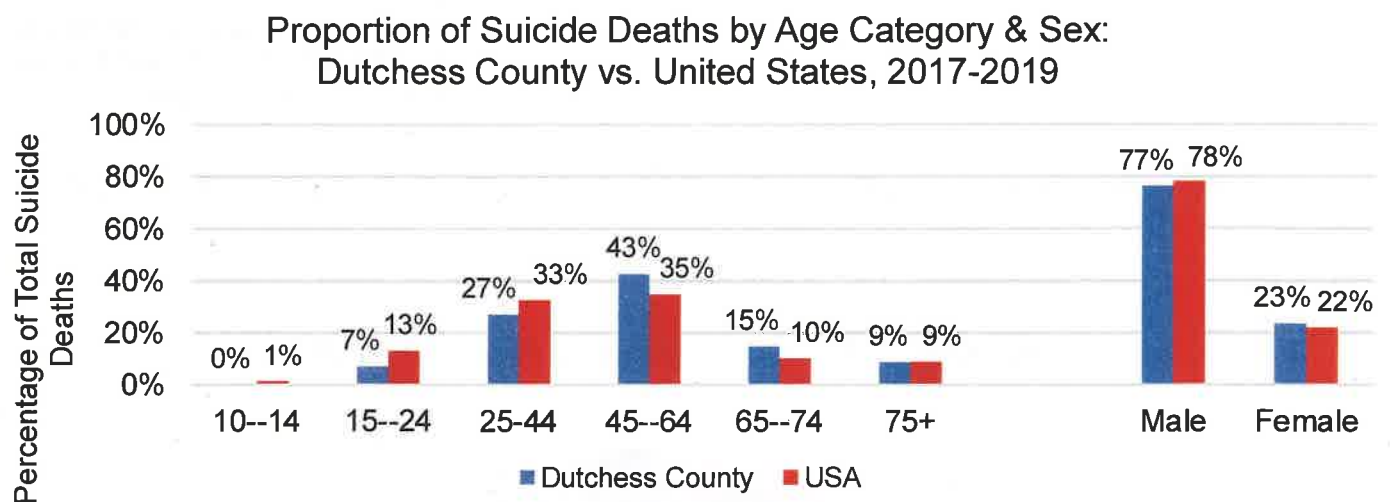
Suicide in Dutchess County



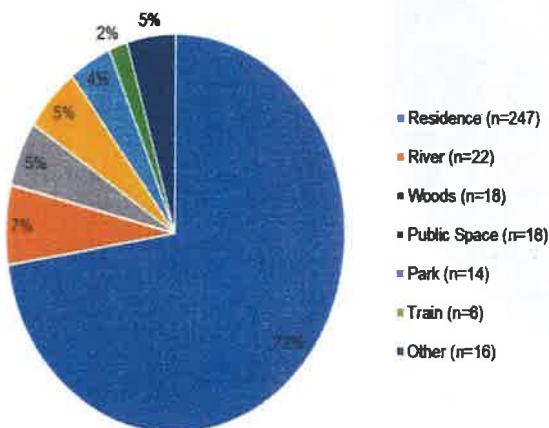
Only includes residents of Dutchess County

Excludes prison deaths

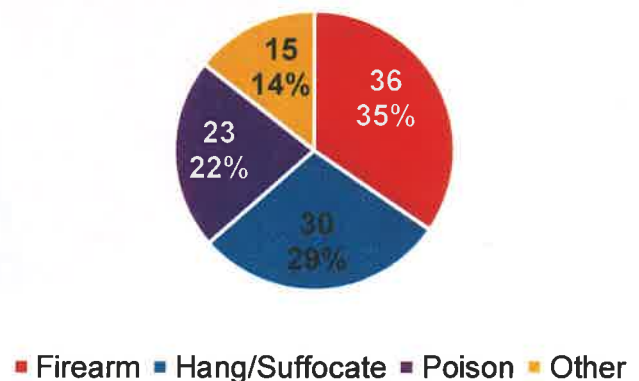
Only includes those investigated by the county medical examiner



Suicide Deaths in Dutchess County by Location Type, 2012 - 2021



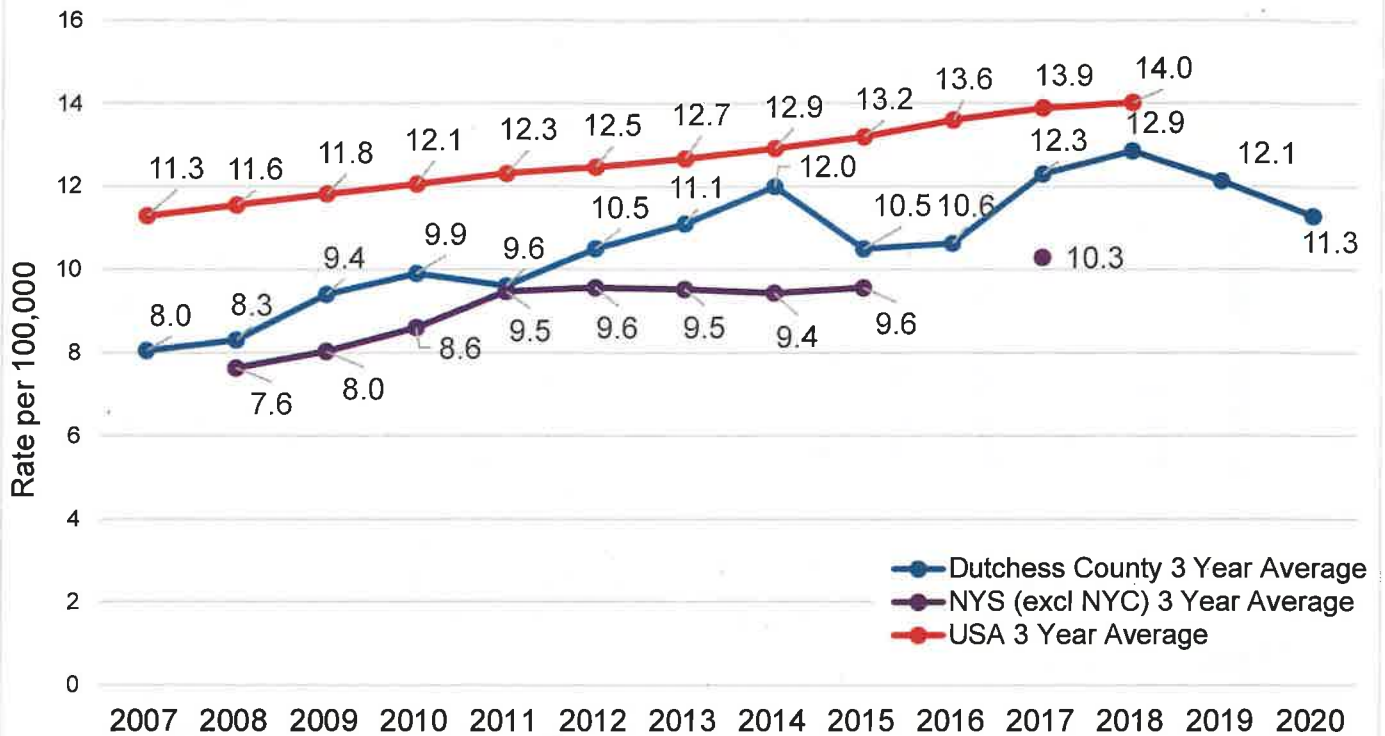
Suicide Deaths in Dutchess County by Mechanism (CDC Classification), 2019 - 2021



Most suicides took place in or on residential properties – next common was in the Hudson River

56% of gun related suicides were from a handgun

Age & Sex Adjusted Suicide Rates: County, State & Nation



Suicides in Dutchess County by Age, 2019-2021

